

*April 14, 2016*

## MEDIA RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

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### **BeADonor Day at Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital (SMGH)**

(Strathroy, ON) – April is BeADonor month. The Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) is celebrating BeADonor Day on April 28, 2016. Please join us for special presentations, testimonials, donor registration information and refreshments (details below).

Currently in Ontario, there are over 1,600 people on the waiting list for an organ transplant. Sharing your decision to donate is the best gift. More than 85% of Ontarians are in favour of organ donation; however, only one in four have registered their consent to donate.

MHA is proud to of its affiliation with the Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN) in working to save lives through organ and tissue donation. In less than one year, SMGH has been able to provide donations (through donors like you) to enhance the lives of 18 individuals!

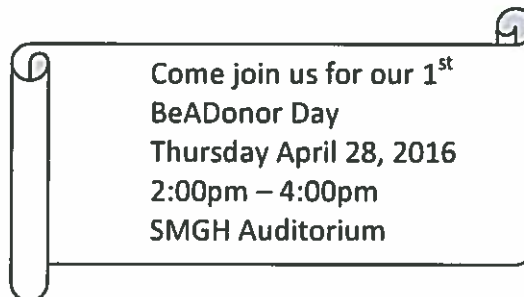
Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN) is a not-for-profit agency of the Government of Ontario. TGLN plans, promotes, coordinates and supports organ and tissue donation and transplantation across Ontario. Its mission is to save and enhance lives through the gift of organ and tissue donation and transplantation in Ontario. TGLN provides Ontarians with tools and supports to help them make informed decisions. Stakeholders include donor families, community volunteers, transplant recipients, healthcare professionals, faith leaders, supportive private sector organizations and governmental organizations.

A transplant is a type of surgery where an organ or tissue is removed from one person (the donor) and given to another (the recipient) to replace the recipient's damaged organ or tissue. Organs that can be transplanted are the liver, small bowel, kidney, pancreas, heart and lung.

Tissue Transplants include corneas, skin, bone, cardiovascular tissue, the islet cells of the pancreas and connective tissue.

“SMGH is very proud to partner with the Trillium Gift of Life Network to enhance the lives of people right here in our community,” says Nancy Maltby, Chief Operating Officer of Middlesex Hospital Alliance.

In January 2015, SMGH began working with TGLN to become a level 2 designated hospital for organ and tissue donation within the Gift of Life Network. Since the start of the program on April 1, 2015, SMGH has demonstrated promising, positive results including appropriate referrals to TGLN resulting in seven eye donations and one multi-tissue donation enhancing the lives of many individuals. As of December 31, 2015, MHA’s conversion rate was the best of any community hospital in the last quarter, meaning that in most cases where a potential donor has been identified, they have gone on to be a donor.



If you want to be sure that your donation decision is registered, visit [BeADonor.ca](http://BeADonor.ca) or register in person at a ServiceOntario centre or online at [www.beadonor.ca/campaign/mha](http://www.beadonor.ca/campaign/mha). For more information on donation, please visit [www.giftoflife.on.ca](http://www.giftoflife.on.ca).

#### About MHA:

The Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) is comprised of two fully-accredited partner sites: Four Counties Health Services and Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital.

A progressive, team-oriented and technologically adept organization of excellence, the MHA is creating a more integrated and seamless approach to treatment by embracing and seeking out partnerships, through collaboration and investing in people. This coordinated approach helps to ensure that a high level of service is provided while reducing costs and continually enhancing quality.

Providing core acute primary and secondary hospital care, the MHA has also been recognized for establishing two notable Centres of Achievement (Orthopaedics and Diabetes Education Centre) that generate local and regional referrals.